

EXHIBIT 1

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE DIVISION**

No. 3:12-cv-00456-MOC-DSC
(Consolidated with Nos. 3:12-cv-00474 and 3:12-cv-00624)

MAURINE NIEMAN,)	<u>CLASS ACTION</u>
)	
Plaintiffs,)	DECLARATION OF AMALGAMATED
)	BANK EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
vs.)	AND GENERAL COUNSEL DEBORAH
)	SILODOR
DUKE ENERGY CORPORATION, et al.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
)	
_____)	

I, Deborah Silodor declare as follows:

1. I am the Executive Vice President and General Counsel of Amalgamated Bank. I respectfully submit this declaration in support of final approval of the \$146,250,000 settlement (“the Settlement”), the plan of allocation, and an award of 24.5% of the Settlement in attorneys’ fees to Lead Counsel, plus expenses incurred by Lead Counsel in litigating this case. I also submit this declaration in support of Amalgamated Bank’s request for reimbursement of \$20,612.50 in expenses associated with the time spent by myself and Scott Zdrazil, Amalgamated Bank’s former First Vice President and Director of Corporate Governance monitoring and participating in the litigation. I have personal knowledge of the statements herein, and, if called as a witness, could and would testify competently thereto.

2. Amalgamated Bank is an institutional investor with over \$3.8 billion in assets and a long history of advocating for the highest standards of corporate governance and protecting clients’ investments, and has consistently been involved in issues related to the integrity of the stock market. Amalgamated Bank made the decision to participate in this litigation as a Lead Plaintiff only after determining that it was a matter of importance to institutional and individual investors. In acting as a Lead Plaintiff, Amalgamated Bank understood its responsibility to serve the best interests of the Class.

3. On December 14, 2012, this Court appointed Amalgamated Bank, as Trustee for the LongView Large Cap 500 Index Fund and LongView Large Cap 500 Index VEBA Fund, together with Gerald and Carolyn Friesen and Craig Bacino, as Trustee for the Janice and Craig Bacino Trust, to serve as the Lead Plaintiffs. In fulfillment of its responsibilities on behalf of all members of the class, Amalgamated Bank, including myself: (i) engaged in numerous meetings, phone conferences, and correspondence with Lead Counsel; (ii) participated in the litigation and provided input into the

prosecution of the case; (iii) kept fully informed regarding case status; (iv) reviewed documents filed in this action, including the Consolidated Complaint for Violations of the Federal Securities Laws and motion to dismiss briefing; (v) consulted with counsel and provided input regarding litigation and settlement strategy; (vi) participated in and was kept informed about all aspects of the mediation and settlement negotiations; (vii) reviewed, discussed with counsel, and provided comments on the Stipulation of Settlement and other settlement provisions and documents.

4. Amalgamated Bank authorized Lead Counsel to settle this action for \$146,250,000. In this regard, I and my colleagues reviewed, considered, and evaluated the merits of this case, including the law governing the allegations and facts developed through Lead Counsel's investigation, was kept apprised of the scheduling of and progress of the case, and approved the proposed Settlement on behalf of Amalgamated Bank. In making its determination that the \$146,250,000 settlement fund represented a fair, reasonable, and adequate result for the Class, Amalgamated Bank weighed the substantial benefits to the Class against the significant risks and uncertainties of continued litigation. After doing so, and together with the other Lead Plaintiffs, Amalgamated Bank believes that the Settlement represents an excellent recovery for the Class and a recovery that would not have been possible without the diligent efforts of Lead Counsel who aggressively litigated this case. Amalgamated Bank believes the Settlement represents a fair, reasonable, and adequate recovery on behalf of the Class, and that its approval is in the best interest of each Class Member.

5. While I recognize that any determination of fees is left to the Court, Amalgamated Bank has approved the request for a 24.5% attorneys' fee award, plus expenses not to exceed \$250,000. In determining that the proposed 24.5% fee was reasonable, Amalgamated Bank took into

account fees awarded in similar cases and Lead Counsel's high-quality representation and diligence in prosecuting this litigation.

6. Additionally, I understand that in cases such as this, the Court may make an award of reasonable costs and expenses (including lost wages) directly relating to the representation of the Class to any representative serving on behalf of the Class. As a consequence of the services performed by Amalgamated Bank in its efforts rendered in the best interest of the Class, Amalgamated Bank has incurred expenses associated with my time, as well as that of Mr. Zdrazil, monitoring and participating in the litigation. This time includes reviewing major pleadings and filings in this case, conferences and correspondence with counsel, and direct participation in mediation and settlement discussions. As set forth in our records, I spent a total of 63.80 hours on the litigation and Mr. Zdrazil spent a total of 67.75 hours on the litigation.¹ Based on our annual salaries and backgrounds, an appropriate hourly rate for me is \$250 and an appropriate hourly rate for Mr. Zdrazil is \$200. Based on these hourly rates, the unreimbursed expenses for time expended on the litigation is \$20,612.50. These unreimbursed expenses were reasonably and necessarily incurred in connection with Amalgamated Bank's services to all members of the class in this case and I believe they are both fair and reasonable.

¹ There were 40.50 hours where Mr. Zdrazil and myself were both involved in the litigation. For each of those hours, a blended hourly rate of \$225 was used and only a single hour was recorded (*i.e.*, we did not separately count the hour time spent by myself and Mr. Zdrazil when we were jointly involved in the litigation). Accordingly, the total hours we worked on the case for purposes of this request for reimbursement is 92.05.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 22nd day of May, 2015, at New York, New York.



DEBORAH SILODOR